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ARE YOU...
MY FATH-ER?!

WOW!
THE COFFEE HERE SURE IS GREAT!
...
I'M...
PRETTY GOOD LOOKING, SO I WAS POPULAR WITH GIRLS.
HUH ?!
H-
H-HOLD ON! I'M STARTING FROM THE BEGINNING, SO JUST LISTEN!
...

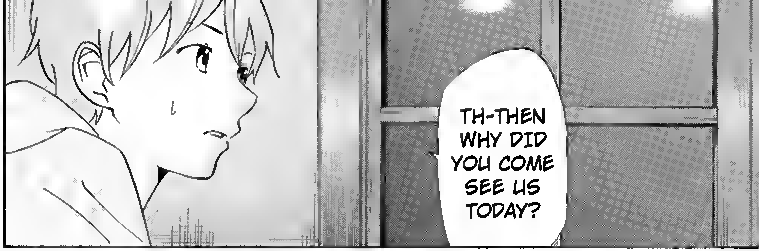
YOU'RE ...
THE DAUGHTER OF MYSELF AND MY GIRLFRIEND FROM ART SCHOOL.
I THINK IT WAS ABOUT SIX YEARS AFTER WE BROKE UP...
I RAN INTO HER BY CHANCE AT AN ART GALLERY AND FOUND OUT...

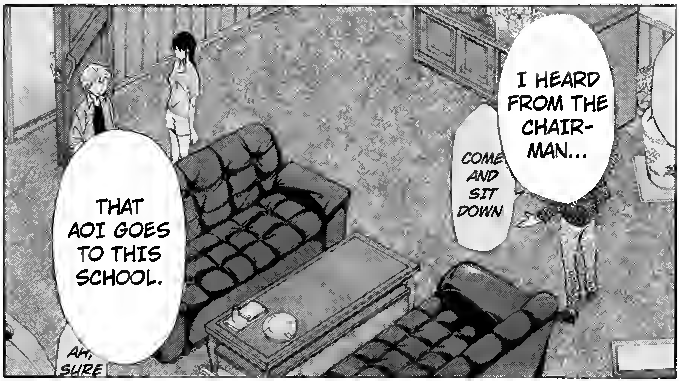
...THAT SHE'D HAD YOU AND WAS RAISING YOU.

FRANKLY, I WAS YOUNG, TOO...
AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
...
AND THEN SHE SAID...
"I CAN RAISE HER MY-SELF...
SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT."
S-SO YOU THREW AOI-SAN AWAY WITHOUT A CARE?

THAT'S WHY...
IF AOI WANTED TO SEE ME ONE DAY...
I MADE A DRAWING IN THAT SKETCH-BOOK AS A CLUE...
SO SHE COULD FIND ME.

BUT WELL
IF YOU WANT TO PUT IT THAT WAY...
I GUESS I DID THROW HER AWAY.
BE-SIDES ...
I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO FACE HER OR HOW TO RAISE HER...
SO LATE IN THE GAME...


TH-THEN WHY DID YOU COME SEE US TODAY?


I HEARD FROM THE CHAIR-MAN...
COME AND SIT DOWN
THAT AOI GOES TO THIS SCHOOL.
AH, SURE

I DIDN'T KNOW HOW I SHOULD ACT...
BUT I COULDN'T FACE HER
OR WHAT I COULD SAY...

BUT ...
AND I FELT LIKE THERE WAS NO WAY I COULD JUST CASUAL-LY...
WALK IN ON HER LIFE NOW.

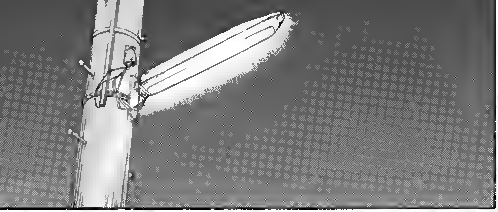
BUT THEN, FUJI-SHIRO-KUN...
I WANTED YOUR PAINTING OF AOI...
...
NO MATTER WHAT.

I HEARD SHE PASSED AWAY IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT.
U-UM ...
WHAT ABOUT MY MOTHER ...?

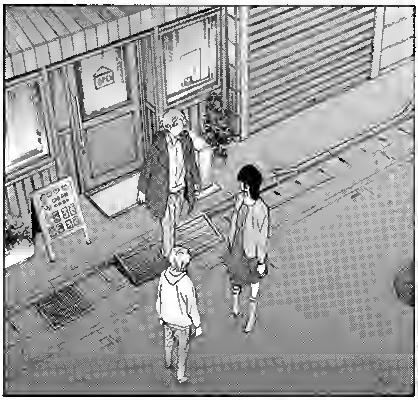
THE REASON YOU HAVE NO MEMORIES OF WHEN YOU WERE SMALL...
MIGHT BE THE SHOCK FROM THAT.
I... SEE...
EXCUSE ME!
THE STUFFED PEPPER, PLEASE!
RIGHT AWAY!
W-WHY?!
I HATE PEPPERS!

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO MEET YOU!
YOU'VE JUST BEEN TALKING ALL ABOUT YOU!
THAT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME...
SHUT UP!
CCK!

DAD...!

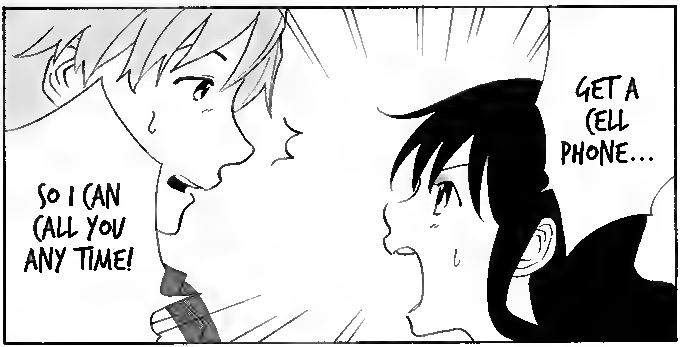


OPEN
COFFEE



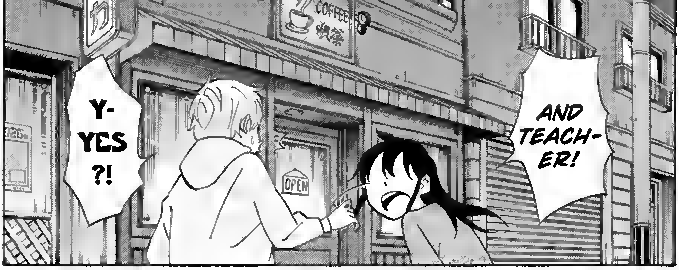
...
I'M SORRY, AOI...

A PHONE...
HUH?


GET A CELL PHONE...
SO I CAN CALL YOU ANY TIME!

AND A ZOO!
AND TAKE ME TO AN AMUSE-MENT PARK!
AND TEACH ME PAINTING!
AND AN AQUARI-UM!
O-OKAY!

FINE...
I WILL...


COFFEE
OPEN
Y-YES?!
AND TEACH-ER!

I LOVE YOU.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
ぶしゃー
…
OPE

D-DAD! CALL AN AMBU-LANCE!
O-OKAY ...
UH... LET ME USE YOUR PHONE.
...
NEXT TIME: THE FINAL CHAPTER!
IT'S THE END OF YOUTH FOR THESE ART STUDENTS!